

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Ceanothus tree in Mill Street, Stanton St John

June 2023

The editor writes



This month's magazine is a real bumper issue! The increased number of pages is partly due to the wide range of community activities and events that are taking place in all our villages, but we also have some new contributors this month.

I hope you will enjoy reading their diverse and interesting articles which include two highly informative pieces about birds and bees, a fascinating first hand account of how the 'Coronation Bible' was commissioned and made for King Charles III, and an appreciation of one of our three village pubs (we hope to include similar articles about the other two in future issues of the magazine). Finally, if you turn to page 26, you will find an intriguing story about something that happened in Forest Hill 750 years ago.

While browsing the magazine, don't forget to have your diary or calendar close to hand to make a note of all the delightful community events that are happening around our four parishes. If you are new to the area, use the contact details provided to get in touch and ask questions, or even volunteer to help with something that interests you. It really is the quickest way to get to know other people in the community and it is also very rewarding.

Best wishes,

Julia

All contributions to this magazine are the sole responsibility of the author and do not imply or represent any official editorial view or endorsement.

Our cover photo

was taken by Andrew Clark from Stanton St John

If you have taken a photo which you think might be suitable for the cover of the next magazine, please email it to

4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

Vicar: Reverend Anthea Beresford

anthea@fourparishes.org.uk

LIST OF CONTENTS	
Church Services in the Four Parishes	Page 5
Letter from Anthea	Page 6
Church Matters	Page 8
General Articles and Information	Page 11
Village pages: Beckley	Page 21
Village pages: Forest Hill	Page 24
Village pages: Horton-cum-Studley	Page 29
Village pages: Stanton St John	Page 34
Classified	Page 38

We welcome contributions for future issues, but please get in touch with the editorial team beforehand at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com to discuss any piece you'd like to write. Contributors typically live in the Four Parishes, or have a strong personal connection to the area. The editors reserve the right to reject any submitted content at any stage of the editorial process.

*Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at
www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine.*

The closing date for the July/August 2023 issue is 15 June 2023

**To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA
adverts.4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com**

News or notices for the individual 'Village pages' should be sent to:

Beckley	Vacant at present. Send direct to the editor.
Forest Hill	Linda Goffey 01865 873078 linda@goffey.co.uk
Horton-cum-Studley	Carol Welch 01865 358122 carol_welch20@hotmail.com
Stanton St John	Sue Baker 01865 351449 susanjbaker24@gmail.com

Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

The Reverend Anthea Beresford is Vicar of the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Beckley, St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill, St Barnabas Church in Horton-cum-Studley, and St John the Baptist Church in Stanton St John. Anthea is supported by a team of voluntary clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens, whose details are listed below.

Ministry Team

Rev'd Anthea Beresford
Vicar

anthea@fourparishes.org.uk
Tel: 01865 351839

Rev'd Hugh Lee
Associate Priest

hugh.lee@btinternet.com
Tel: 01865 316245

Rev'd Stephanie Bullock

stephaniebullock9@gmail.com

Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Hoare

liz.hoare@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk

Betty Dye LLM

betty.dye10@gmail.com

Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme LLM

n.i.orme@exeter.ac.uk

Churchwardens

Beckley

Georgina Robson

Tel: 01865 351637

ginarobson5@gmail.com

Forest Hill

Jane Walker

Tel: 01865 872399

lyttleton@btinternet.com

Pat Fraser

Tel: 01865 875679

triciaann49@gmail.com

Horton-cum-Studley

Andrew Payne

Tel: 01865 351018

andrewrobertsonpayne@gmail.com

Julia Slingo

Stanton St John

Vacant at present

The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley, Stanton St John and Beckley. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs. We are dependent on volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes.

Editor: Julia Stutfield

Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker, Anthea Beresford

Church Services in the Four Parishes, June 2023

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
4 June <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Service at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
	6pm Taizé Service on Zoom			
11 June <i>First Sunday after Trinity Barnabas the Apostle</i>		9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	11am Benefice Zoom Service			
	4pm Messy Church Celebrating St Barnabas at Horton-cum-Studley			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
18 June <i>Second Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley			
25 June <i>Third Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Forest Hill			
	4pm Family Church does Forest Church Bernwood Forest, Oakley Road, OX33 1BJ (meet at car park)			
	6pm Church Without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			

Please check the website www.fourparishes.org.uk for any updates. If you are not on the church mailing list and would like an invitation to a Zoom service or a regular reminder of weekly services, please email Anthea: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



By the end of this month, I will have been the Vicar of the Four Parishes Benefice for three years! I cannot quite believe it! Where has time gone?

I find being a Vicar the most amazing privilege. I get to journey with people during wonderful parts of their lives, and also some of the most difficult parts. As I sit here, I reflect on the comings and goings as a Vicar in just this last week in the benefice – an interesting exercise. This is not to boast, but as I marvel at all that is going on within our church communities – not forgetting of course that others, in the ministry team, Churchwardens, those on PCCs, and all those that are busy at work quietly in the background, contribute huge amounts to the lives of the churches, that keep them going.

In just this last week, I have baptised my first twins, celebrating with family and friends as they officially begin their journeys of faith; I led a funeral, as family and friends said goodbye to a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, step mum, step grandmother and friend; I celebrated Communion, said Morning Prayer and led Choral Evensong around the four parish churches; I visited in the community; I attended a joyful Ascension Day service in a garden in the benefice (see page 8); I celebrated with a family and their friends as they brought their child for a Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child service; I recorded a service so it could go out on Zoom, and led Morning and Evening Prayer on Zoom, as well as the Book Group; I dropped in to the wonderful coffee morning in St Barnabas Church, finding many chatting and eating delicious cake; I led prayers for peace, and an Annual Parochial Church meeting where we celebrated the previous calendar year of the life of the church (there is one of these meetings in each parish during May); I chatted with people as I walked around the community; I planned the service for this coming weekend when I will share with a couple and their family and friends as we celebrate their marriage; I have been in Beckley School and met with the Collective Worship Council to talk about assemblies, and I have been to a governors meeting; and not forgetting being at The Maple Tree in Forest Hill.

Why this reflection? Why mention this? Boasting? No! That is not my intention. It has made me sit up and realise what a huge amount is going on in the benefice. I am just one of many people working for our churches. And this is a reflection on one random week within the life of our churches from my perspective alone. Much else has also been going on as many others are hard at work doing all sorts of things to keep our churches alive – or indeed, we might say, thriving.

During March you might have been part of, or wondered what we were doing in, our weekly discussions about ‘How Village Churches Thrive’. We had excellent conversations, with ideas flowing, and a huge thank you to The Reverend Hugh Lee for leading these. You may also be wondering what is happening now. Well, the discussions are continuing in the individual PCCs, and I am sure you will hear more about them over the coming months. Because, if we do not all continue to work together to help our churches thrive, they will not be around for us to celebrate all these things that I have observed over these last eight days. Please do help to support your village churches, and may they thrive.



Please do get in touch if life is hard and you need someone to talk to. Take great care and God bless you and your loved ones.

Anthea



The Reverend Anthea Beresford is Vicar of the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Beckley, St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill, St Barnabas Church in Horton-cum-Studley, and St John the Baptist Church in Stanton St John.

CHURCH MATTERS

All the churches in the benefice are open daily. Beckley: 10am-6pm; Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John: 10am-4pm.

In addition to the church services listed on page 5, there are other activities during the week, details of which appear below. **All are welcome to join these activities. Please email me (Anthea) anthea@fourparishes.org.uk if you would like to know more about any of the items in this section of the magazine.**

Archdeacon's Visitation

Each year our Churchwardens are sworn in by the archdeacon at a Visitation Service (every third year there might be an Episcopal Visitation, where they are sworn in by the Bishop). This is a formal service with legal elements, but it is also a time to celebrate and give thanks for the role and work of all churchwardens, and for us, especially those serving in our own benefice. This year the service is on 8 June at 7.30pm in Dorchester Abbey, and I encourage as many of us as possible to go and support our Churchwardens, who work so tirelessly for us. Please do get in touch if you want any further information.

Ascension Day Service on 18 May

We were blessed with the most beautiful morning for this 7am outdoor service. A huge thank you to The Reverend Hugh Lee for presiding and for preaching words of encouragement to us, especially as we look towards Pentecost, which we will have celebrated by the time you receive this magazine. A huge thank you also to Annie and Andrew Payne who hosted us in their garden, and once again provided us with a sumptuous breakfast. I am sure we would all have leapt out of bed with the same enthusiasm even without that wonderful enticement!!



Advent challenge and beyond

I hope you enjoyed reading through the stories of 2 Chronicles last month. We really are nearing the end of our journey through the Bible. Just 5 books to go. Those still with me have done remarkably well!

I thought we would read the three smaller books this month, being Nehemiah, Esther, and Ecclesiastes. These have 13, 10 and 12 chapters respectively, so just over a chapter a day to read this month. Happy reading! Please do let me know how you get on.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

We are continuing Morning and Evening Prayer and the Benefice Book Group on Zoom as detailed. Please do get in touch for invitations if you wish to be included.

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer at 9am		√		√
Evening Prayer at 6pm	√		√	
Benefice Book Group at 7.30pm			√	

Book Group

We have just started a new book, *Lydia: A Story*, by Paula Gooder. If anyone would like to join us, please do get in touch with me. All are welcome.

Home Group Study on the Gospel of John

The Bible Study of the Gospel of John continues. It is held on Mondays in Horton-cum-Studley, beginning at 2.30pm.

If you are interested in being involved, and have not already done so, please contact Annie Payne on 01865 351018, leaving a message if there is no reply, or by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com. New people are welcome at any time.

Prayers for Peace

As the war continues in Ukraine, and as God's peace is not present throughout the world, we continue to pray for peace. We meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in June across the benefice as follows:

Beckley	3, 21
Forest Hill	14, 24
Horton-cum-Studley	10, 28
Stanton St John	7, 17

Children's craft workshops in Beckley Church

The next Children's craft workshop held in Beckley Church is on **Wednesday 21 June from 3.30-4.30pm** and will be looking at God of the Solar System, where we will be making solar system mobiles. The workshop is aimed at primary school children and is run by the 'Open the Book' and 'Messy Church' teams, and other helpers – but you don't need to have attended either of those to come and join in the fun. Children must be accompanied by an adult please. There will be light refreshments. Please do book in by emailing me beforehand at betty.dye10@gmail.com. Thank you.

Betty Dye

Messy Church in June

This is a reminder that our June Messy Church will be in the Churchyard at Horton-cum-Studley. See page 31 for more information.



13 Middle Road, Stanton St John
01865 351532 / 07795 415819
stantonvillageshop@gmail.com



We're open Monday to Saturday 9am-1pm & Sunday 9-11am, provide friendly service, deliver FREE across our 4 parishes on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday afternoons AND do bicycle repairs.

SOME CUSTOMER COMMENTS:

"Such a good range, I don't need to go to Waitrose so often."

"With two young children, we love our twice-weekly milk delivery."

To our valued customers, THANK YOU! We LOVE that you shop local!

GENERAL

JAZZ ON THE HILL

NEW jazz jam sessions starting at Forest Hill Village Hall

Tuesday 13 June and Tuesday 11 July, 7.30-9.30pm.

Join us to celebrate jazz with plenty of opportunity for instrumentalists and vocalists to make music with a house band, and to take the seat in the rhythm section as well if wished. All welcome.

Soft drinks available; bring your own alcohol if desired.

Suggested donation by card or cash £5. Parking available in the village streets. Wheelchair accessible.

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity

Applications for Bursaries welcomed

The Charity was set up in 1720 when Dame Elizabeth Holford left £500 to establish a school for the children of Stanton St John and Forest Hill. The Charity came into being in 1988, following the closure of the school at what is now the Holford Centre, in Stanton St John. The Charity's area of benefit now includes Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover, Beckley, Horton-cum-Studley and the ecclesiastical Parish of Elsfield. Applications for grants are invited from school aged children and young people up to the age of 25 who are or who have parents resident in the area of benefit, for help in their educational needs.

In the past bursaries have been granted for computer software, sporting equipment, residential courses, text books, laptops and other electronic equipment, college courses not funded by Student Finance and music lessons. Applications are not means tested and funding is granted on a case-by-case basis.

The Trustees welcome applications for bursaries addressed to the Chair of Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity, Alison Finch. The email address is HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com. You can also apply in writing to Alison Finch, 14 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford, OX33 1DX

The Trustees are meeting next on Monday 10 July.

Falcons – hunters of the skies

by Lyn Ebbs

I promised back in March to return to birds of prey, so, with that in mind, I'm going to write about falcons. Locally we can see four species of falcon. Two, peregrines and kestrels, are with us all year round while the other two, hobbies and merlins, swap over – hobbies are summer visitors that arrive as the merlins are leaving for their breeding grounds.

Of the four, the kestrel is the one that is easiest to identify. They can frequently be spotted sitting upright on overhead wires or posts, where you can see the male's dark-spotted chestnut back and wing coverts, grey head and tail, and paler undersides. But it's the kestrel's flight that is so characteristic – it persistently hovers and even seems to float upwards as it uses currents of air with maximum efficiency. It feeds chiefly on small mammals, but also insects, hovering while scanning the ground for prey. It sometimes steals prey from other predators and has been photographed doing this to a barn owl on Otmoor. They will readily use nest boxes but in suitable terrain will use a ledge in a quarry, a fork in a tree or take over an old crow's nest.



The hobby is similar in size to the kestrel, elegant and long-winged in flight, resembling a large swift. Its plumage is rather dark, with heavily streaked undersides and diagnostic 'red trousers' – rufous coloured feathers on its thighs and under the tail. It spends the winter in southern Africa and arrives back in Britain in April when larger insects are taking to the skies. Otmoor is an ideal site to see hobbies



now, deftly hunting dragonflies or swallows and martins over the reed beds and wetter fields. Its prey is often caught in its talons and transferred to its beak in flight. When other avian summer visitors leave and insect numbers fall, they head south again, with the last birds departing in October and sometimes November.

As the hobby leaves, the merlin arrives, many from breeding grounds as far away as Iceland. They are the smallest of our falcons, compact, dashing and fearless. The UK breeding population is thinly scattered across upland moorland from south-west England north to Shetland, nesting mostly on the ground in thick cover such as heather or bracken. In winter they leave the moors for lowlands and coasts. Its prey is chiefly small birds, and the starling roost at Otmoor provides it with great hunting opportunities. Although I have seen one as close to home as Shepherd's Pit, seizing a great tit from the hedge.



Although not the largest member of the falcon family, peregrines are the biggest species we are likely to see locally. One name for the male peregrine is the tiercel, from old French meaning a third, as it is a third smaller than the female. (The size disparity between males and females is common to all our falcons.) Traditional nesting sites are cliffs and crags, but they are happy to use tall man-made structures. They often feature on BBC's 'Springwatch' when a nest camera has been set up on a church tower. Pairs have been seen on Otmoor throughout the year, but I don't have any information that they've actually bred there. As peregrines chiefly feed on birds taken on the wing, the wintering flocks of waders and wildfowl there are attractive prey for them. It is easier to see them in winter when they stoop on a flock and send all the birds skywards. Despite the similarities in appearance, I hope I've given you some clues to tell the falcons apart.



Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for 35 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.

A Beekeeper's Diary

by Maria Keenan

[Editor's Note: "There are several beekeepers in the Four Parishes and now is a busy time of year. We have asked one of them, Maria Keenan, to write a monthly article through the summer to let us know what's happening in her apiary – opening a window on the fascinating life of bees and the job of a beekeeper."]

There's an old country rhyme that goes:

***"A swarm in May is worth a ton of hay.
A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon.
A swarm in July isn't worth a fly."***

My beekeeping interest was first sparked in 2016 after a swarm of bees landed on a bush in our garden in Forest Hill. I was fascinated and wanted to learn more, eventually getting my hands on a real colony of bees. I learnt my beekeeping craft by initially attending a course held by the Oxford Beekeepers Association but have learnt so much more by the powers of the internet and forums. They say if you ask 10 beekeepers a question you'll get 10 different answers. Everyone has their own way of doing things and what works best for them.

The rhyme has a simple meaning: a swarm in May and June will grow quickly and produce lots of honey whereas a swarm in July will not usually be as productive as most of the pollen/nectar is going into decline.

At this time of year my beekeeping involves checking the hives on a weekly basis. Firstly, donning my bee suit, making sure it is zipped up fully. You can guarantee if you leave a small gap a bee will get in. Opening up a hive containing 30,000 bees can be quite intimidating especially if they are not the friendliest bunch but fascinating at the same time.

Initially a hive is filled with wooden frames containing a sheet of beeswax which the bees use as a foundation to build their classic honeycomb shape. The aim of the





inspection is to look for eggs, larvae and capped brood. This tells me that I have a queen and that she is laying. If I spot the queen then that is a bonus. (See photo of brood frame containing larvae and eggs).

A hive has 3 types of bees: tens of thousands of 'workers' who feed the larvae, collect pollen and nectar, a few hundred 'drones' who's only role is to mate with a virgin queen, and the queen herself who lays the eggs. The queen is longer and fatter than the other bees but can still be difficult to spot. Most beekeepers mark their queens to identify which year they were born.

I also need to check for queen cells, these look like long peanut shells (see photo of queen cells).

The eggs and larvae are fed royal jelly which will make her a queen instead of a worker bee. Seeing queen cells generally means that the bees are looking to swarm as there is insufficient room in the hive but can also mean that the queen is failing and they need to replace her. My job



as a beekeeper is to assess what's going on and take action to prevent swarming. If I am not proactive in my inspections then the original queen will swarm, taking half of the colony with her. One way of preventing a swarm is to move the original queen along with some bees and brood into another hive. This is called an artificial swarm and the bees will think that they have in fact swarmed. I then need to remove all of the queen cells except one. This cell will hopefully hatch and mate successfully heading up the old colony.

Once hatched, the virgin queen will head to a drone congregation site where drones from lots of different colonies will 'hang out' in the hope to mate. She may mate with 40 or more drones and will then return to her hive and start to lay eggs. Normally this whole process is complete within 2 weeks. The queen can lay several thousand eggs a day. Next month I shall hopefully be extracting and jarring up my liquid gold!

Maria Keenan has lived in Forest Hill most of her life since 1967, loves travel, new experiences and is a keen crafter!

A Bible fit for a King!

by Paul Lansdowne



On 3 January I returned to work after the Christmas holiday, slightly bleary eyed and planning to ease myself gently back into things, when I got the call that Oxford University Press had been asked by Lambeth Palace to produce the Bible for the King's Coronation on 6 May.

Could I trust my ears on this one? I had to check that the over-indulgence during the holiday wasn't playing games with the little grey cells! It was true, there was no doubt, OUP had been asked to produce the Bible for the ceremony.

During my many years working in Academic publishing, I have been fortunate to organize the printing of some wonderful books. They come in all shapes and sizes, an array of text and cover designs, and they all require an appropriate printer and associated materials.

The immediate questions that I was asked were, could I organize a printer and binder who would guarantee delivery by 24 April, and approximately what weight will the Bible be a curious second question!

I fully understood the first question, but why the latter at this early stage? It was because Lambeth Palace wanted to use something of a similar weight to practice with. It was also important that it didn't require 6 weeks in the gym to be able to lift it!

The immediate need was to establish the printer, the text paper, and the binder. By the next day, I had established the printer, which was the CPI Group, and agreed a very fast print turnaround. As luck would have it, the paper I really wanted, which is made in Austria, was already in stock at CPI and in the right sheet size.

It was a very good start. The next task was finding the appropriate binder! My instinct was to start with the fine binder who produced the Bible for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. They were also well known for their experience and skills in producing specialist bindings for clients around the world – I therefore made the call to Shepherds, Sangorski &

Sutcliffe in Westminster, and spoke to their MD. The response was very encouraging: “Of course, we would very much want to be involved! We will make this happen for you Paul, let’s meet as soon as possible.”

The OUP project team was then formed with colleagues from multiple departments, and we met with Shepherds at the earliest opportunity. The priority was supplying the printed sheets and the final cover design to Shepherds to allow them the eight weeks they needed for the binding work. Everything was going to be done by hand using traditional skills used in fine binding.

The choice of text was agreed with Lambeth Palace. This was the 400th Anniversary edition of the original James I Authorized Bible. Once this was ready for the printer, I went with colleagues to see the sheets being printed in Chippenham and signed them off as approved. The next big milestone was for OUP’s design team to produce cover design options for Lambeth Palace to select from. As time was short, all efforts were put into producing them. This milestone was achieved on time and the design agreed.

The binding process could begin! During that phase I learnt a lot about the



Photo credit: Lambeth Palace

skills and processes in the fine binding world. I was very fortunate in seeing such processes at Shepherds. There are many skills involved. The ones that stood out included; the hand-sewing process on traditional sewing frames; the padding and formation of the boards; the creation of doublures and leather joints; the creation of the five raised bands on the spine; and the hand tooling of the design on the cover.

It was a wonderful experience to be part of something so special, which played a role in a piece of British history. To see the Bible in the King’s hands, knowing I had held it myself only a few weeks before, was also a moment that will be a lasting memory for me.

Four copies of the ceremonial Bible were produced. One for Lambeth Palace for the ceremony itself, one for King Charles III, one for Westminster Abbey, and one for OUP’s archive.

See <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news> for more information.
Paul Lansdowne lives in Stanton St John.

The Abingdon Arms: an appreciation

by Mish Tullar

“There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern.” Yes, it’s overused, but Samuel Johnson’s aphorism continues to strike a chord as ‘the pub’ represents much of what can still most readily bind friends, neighbours and strangers together.

That was certainly the draw for my wife and I when we were receiving the Otmoor villages for a new home - to escape Oxford’s lockdown straight jacket back in 2020. The exquisite 14th century church, the distinctive community centre and the adjacent RSPB reserve all commended Beckley. But, it was the Abingdon Arms that sold it.

Two years into village life and the pub still fulfils that early lure of community, conviviality and of course the odd cold beer. The organised fun of the pub talk (typically last Sunday of the month) and the somewhat disorganised fun of the quiz night (first Wednesday of the month) bring together an intriguing diaspora of the extremely learned and the somewhat clueless. I find myself frequently in the latter camp, as we wrestle with football club logos one minute and indicators of osteoarthritis the next.

On other evenings the pub is more a typical pub with its cosy, classic, wood beamed interiors, blazing winter fires, and a low hum of conversation punctuated by raucous laughter from drinkers and diners alike.

Best of all are sunny afternoons and early evenings outdoors on the terrace overlooking the chequerboard fields of Otmoor that are said to have inspired Lewis Carroll’s *Through the Looking Glass*. Certainly that stunning view of North Oxfordshire’s levels framed by the pub garden’s own verdant luxuriance, is usually worth ‘one more round’.



So, what if it wasn’t there, and instead that view was the sole preserve of private householders in what would be just one more converted former pub? Last month, government data showed 51 pubs were lost each month in the first quarter of 2023 – almost two a day. That’s nearly double the

rate of last year, as pubs struggle in a perfect storm of huge energy bills, labour shortages and poorer punters – with the recession hitting everyone else too.

This is one possible reality that both the Abingdon team and supporters in the Beckley Area Community Benefit Society that owns the pub are all doing our best to avoid. The very human faces to this are the trio of Vicky, Alex and Danny who took on the business, supported by Hatty, James, Elena and Adrian who keep plates and glasses filled.

Summer trade is critical for the Abingdon, so fingers crossed for good weather, as that brings people from Oxford and beyond on weekend pilgrimages for a Sunday roast with an elegiac view, and a new garden bar with a rather good wine list. But pubs need weekday trade too if they are to survive: throughout the summer the Abingdon has a special offer for local residents – see page 23.



So if date night is Thursday night – or for that matter Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday – then why not sit where Evelyn Waugh once cradled his brandy and contemplate the findings of the British Journal of Community Justice. It found regular visits to the pub were associated with improved mental health and increased social interactions in village communities.

Community spirit energised residents to invest in their local back in 2017. The same spirit sustains the village shop in Stanton. It saw doors flung open to welcome a significant number of Ukrainian families in our midst. And it helped stop an Expressway.

For those like me who value the social cohesion, community belonging and solidarity such gathering places as our pubs create, where residents of all ages can interact and develop social connections – please contemplate this reality: Use it, or lose it.

I'll leave you with the words of that deep thinker of our modern times Bill Bailey: "Three blokes go into a pub. Something happens. The outcome was hilarious!"

Mish Tullar is a resident of Beckley and a committee member of the Beckley Area Community Benefit Society.

The Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley

We have something for every family with young children – a session each weekday and once a month on a Saturday. Check out our website at www.mapletree.org.uk for more information about our special events, our summer programme, and our popular First Aid classes.

For residents of the Four Parishes, our **'stay and play' sessions at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11am-12pm** are a great way to meet other local parents, carers and grandparents as well as an opportunity for the youngest children to start forming friendships in a safe and supportive environment.

Our Maple Tree Market page on Facebook has some wonderful children's clothes, baby essentials, toys, and games available. This aids the environment by recycling, helps families during these difficult financial times and helps to sustain our charity when families are able to make a small donation.

We are here to help, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249 or email info@mapletree.org.uk.



Boarstall Fete 2023

17TH JUNE 2023 - 1PM
BOARSTALL TOWER

Ample parking on site.

GUEST STAR THE BRITANNIA SHOWMAN'S LOCOMOTIVE 

All events held in the beautiful gardens of Boarstall tower & Phil's Yard

**TEAS • CAKE • ICE CREAM • TOMBOLA •
RAFFLE • AUNT SALLY • BAR • PICNIC AREA
• BARBECUE • BLETCHINGDON SILVER BAND
• OPEN CHURCH • STEAM RALLY**

DOG SHOW
Entries on the day 

Please join us at Phil's legendary bar pre party with disco & karaoke.

Friday night 7.30pm till late
Saturday all day till late 

The Otmoor Flyer Bus Service into Headington and Oxford

A GREEN AND SOCIABLE WAY TO TRAVEL

16 passengers - ramp for a wheelchair or a child carrier

THE BUS DRIVER CANNOT ISSUE A TRAVEL CARD, ACCEPT CASH OR SELL TICKETS

Accompanied children aged 11 and under travel FREE OF CHARGE

Mondays & Thursdays

Forest Hill and Stanton St John

Picks up at 10.30am in Forest Hill

Bus stop in Powell Close and Stanton Road

Picks up at 10.40am in Stanton St John

Bus stop outside the village shop

Tuesdays & Fridays

Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley

Picks up at 10.30am in Horton-cum-Studley

Bus stop is the bus shelter on the Brill Road

Picks up at 10.40am in Beckley

Bus stop next to red post box on the High Street

Bus stops on the London Road in Headington and at the Town Hall in St Aldates

Return Journey from Oxford and Headington:

Picks up from Broad Street outside Balliol College at 1.15pm

Picks up in Headington at the main gate into Bury Knowle Park at 1.30pm

TRAVEL CARDS COST £15 FOR 10 SINGLE JOURNEYS, obtainable from:

The Village Shop, Stanton St John – Tel: 01865 351532

Malcolm Leeding, Forest Hill – Tel: 01865 872034

The Abingdon Arms, Beckley – Tel: 01865 655667

Jill Meyjes, Horton cum Studley – Tel: 01865 351496



BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Children's craft workshops in Beckley Church

The next Children's craft workshop held in Beckley Church is on **Wednesday 21 June from 3.30-4.30pm** and will be looking at God of the Solar System, where we will be making solar system mobiles. The workshop is aimed at primary school children and is run by the 'Open the Book' and 'Messy Church' teams, and other helpers – but you don't need to have attended either of those to come and join in the fun. Children must be accompanied by an adult please. There will be light refreshments. Please do book in by emailing me beforehand at betty.dye10@gmail.com. Thank you.

Betty Dye

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd

More than a Pub program <https://bacbs.org/events>

The Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society (BACBS) has a great line up of events at The Abingdon Arms, Beckley to which all are welcome.

Coffee mornings

1st Wednesday of the month, 11am. Meet for coffee, cake and a chat in the pub.

Pub quiz

1st Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm. Thanks to The Abingdon Arms, there's a free round of drinks for the winning team.

Community walks

3rd Sunday of the month, 2pm start. Dogs on leads are welcome on these gentle, approximately two-hour, walks. Email info@bacbs.org for details.

More than a Pub talks

Talks are usually from local experts and cover a wide range of topics.

Sunday 25 June, 6.30pm: *Menopause: Is it me or is it hot in here?*

Everything you want to know about the menopause... Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Royal Free – and Beckley resident, Sapna Shah and Consultant Gynaecologist specialising in menopause and endometriosis Peter Hintridge will both answer key questions on the menopause. Why the sudden change? Why does HRT go in and out of fashion? What is HRT anyway? Does it work? And is it safe?

Sunday 30 July, 6.30pm: *A history of Palestine in 12 photographs*

For more than 20 years, local author Roger Hardy was a Middle East analyst with the BBC World Service. He has written three books on the Middle East and the wider Muslim world. This talk will be on his most recent publication, *The Bride*, which focuses on the history of Palestine using 12 photographs.

If you missed any of the talks and want to listen to the recordings or would like more information, go to bacbs.org/events.

From the Abingdon Arms

Special weekday offer just for the two of you - £39.50

Make sure you bring this voucher with you (or print off)

Any two mains and 2 drinks (small house wine, any pint of beer, soft drink)

**Available Monday-Wednesday 12-8pm
(from the pizza menu)**

**Thursday and Friday 12-3 and 6-9pm
(from à la carte menu)**

Offer available until 31st August in the first instance - please check after then

Not available on Quiz Nights or Bank Holidays



BACBS Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme offers lifts to those with no other transport to e.g. the doctors or Stanton Village Shop, or to the Barton/Green Road roundabout, where there are regular buses into Headington and central Oxford. The scheme serves Beckley, Elfield, Stanton, Forest Hill, Woodeaton. To request a lift, ring 07514 791910 or email BACBSgoodneighbour@gmail.com.

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 5 June at 7pm in Beckley Village Hall. Any changes to the published meeting dates will be on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

The Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and Parish Council information can be found on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

For information on Beckley Village Hall please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to enquire about a booking please contact the Booking Secretary, Mel Green, at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

Keep Beckley Tidy – please clear up after your dog when visiting the playing field at Beckley Village Hall.

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Children's Service at St Nicolas

The Children's Service at St Nicolas takes place at 4pm on the first Sunday of the month and encourages children to become familiar with the essential elements of a service in church, by presenting them in a brief and accessible way. The format includes dramatic story-telling using scripts written by members of the 'Open the Book' team who take fortnightly assemblies at Beckley School, singing led by members of the St Nicolas Choir, and some simple prayers.

People who attend this half-hour service often describe it as 'joyful and uplifting' and adults usually enjoy the stories at least as much as the children. If you are curious to know more, get in touch with Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427 or simply turn up on the day.

Cream Teas and Music at St Nicolas

Sat 24 June, Sun 23 July, Sun 27 August, Sat 23 September

3pm-5pm Cream Teas with live music in the church garden
5.15pm Informal concert in church followed by drinks in the garden



If you would like to take part in any of the concerts, please get in touch with Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427. We offer the chance to perform in a supportive and informal atmosphere and all styles of music are welcome.

Forest Hill Cafe

Village Hall 11-3pm

Light Lunches
Tea/Coffee/Cake
Last Friday of the month
26 May & 30 June



Save the Date: Forest Hill Village Fête, Saturday 8 July, 1- 4pm

Food, drink, tombola, cakes, plants, live music, children's games and more....

Anyone wishing to get involved can email James Skinner: Jde_skinner@hotmail.com

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 22 June at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall**. Dates of future meetings can be found on the Forest Hill website www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover and on the Village Hall notice board.

Fix My Street is the best way to report road or street problems via the Oxfordshire County Council website or by the Fix My Street App.

20-mph wheelie bin stickers are available from the Clerk and can be picked up from the village hall before the PC meeting. Two stickers per household to be used on green and black bins.

Current agendas and minutes are posted on the notice board outside the Village Hall. Archived agendas and minutes can be found on the website.

You can contact the Clerk by email at theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk or telephone 0844 884 3328, between 9am and 5pm.

Forest Hill and the Irish Bishop

by Canon Professor Nicholas Orme LL.M

[Editor's Note: " In the May issue of the magazine, we incorrectly stated that the church in Forest Hill was dedicated to St Nicolas 850 years ago. Having done the maths again, we realise that we were in the wrong century and it is actually a mere 750 years since 1273! Nevertheless we feel that this is something to celebrate and we asked Nicholas Orme to find out a bit more about it."]

On 6 July 1273, exactly 750 years ago, a bishop came to Forest Hill and consecrated the church. The question arises: why? Parts of the fabric of the church are much older than 1273. Had it not been consecrated earlier?

That is quite possible. Parish churches and chapels came into existence on local initiatives. The Church never laid out a network of such places. Sometimes a king, a nobleman, or a bishop built a church on an estate that they owned, in which case a bishop would be brought in to consecrate it. Nobody but a bishop can consecrate a church. But often, churches were set up by local gentry or even the community, and they might not bother with a consecration: just use the church as it was.

In 1237 Otto, the pope's ambassador in England, complained that many churches could show no proof of their consecration. During the next few decades, there was an effort to get this done. Presumably Forest Hill had no record of the fact. But it would not be easy to remedy. The church was at the far end of the huge diocese of Lincoln, which stretched from the Humber to the Thames, and the bishop rarely came Oxford way. He was not welcome at Oxford University for a start, which was founded where it is precisely in order to be as far away as possible from interfering bishops!

So the bishop of Lincoln, Richard of Gravesend, used the services of an Irishman, Reginald, bishop of Cloyne, to go round doing jobs for him: confirming children and consecrating churches. Reginald came down to the Oxford area in June 1273, and we can follow some of his progress round the countryside. On 1 June he consecrated the church at Stowe in Buckinghamshire. On 8 June he was at Weston-on-the-Green, after which he seems to have had a holiday until he turns up on 5 July at Waterperry. The next day (6 July) he came to Forest Hill, which he dedicated to St Nicolas, and on 12 July he went to Sandford-on-Thames. Without

Reginald's helpful presence, Forest Hill might have waited a very long time indeed to get its status confirmed.

The date of 6 July would have been very important in Forest Hill's church calendar. All churches celebrated their dedication festival – the day they were consecrated – as a major event. All adults would have been expected to come to church, and the rest of the day would have been a holiday. It was a good time of the year to have a parish festival. St Nicolas Day, the patronal festival, was also important, but that fell at a bleak time of the year (6 December) and any celebrations would have had to take place indoors.

It is likely that parishioners turned out to watch the dedication of 1273. The ceremony was worth watching. The bishop and his entourage circled the building three times, singing psalms. Then they came inside, where sand had been sprinkled on the floor in a great St Andrew's cross, from corner to corner. The bishop used his staff to write the Greek alphabet along one of the lines, and the Latin alphabet along the other. The whole interior space was showered with holy water, and crosses of chrism (oil and balm) were painted in twelve places. The bishop blessed the altar in the chancel, and relics (perhaps of St Nicolas) were placed within it. The church's holy status was now fully established, and has remained so for three quarters of a millennium.

Nicholas Orme is a member of the ministry team in our Four Parishes Benefice and author of several publications on the Middle Ages and Tudor period, focusing on the history of children and ecclesiastical history. His most recent book 'Going to church in Medieval England' was published by Yale University Press in 2021.



Jazz Nights in the Village Hall

Jazz jam sessions with Will, Julie and Friends, **Tuesday 13 June and Tuesday 11 July, 7.30-9.30pm**. Plenty of opportunity for instrumentalists and vocalists to make music with a house band.

Soft drinks available; bring your own alcohol if desired. Suggested donation by card or cash £5.

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

The Forest Hill Baby & Toddler Group (generally known as The Maple Tree at Forest Hill) has welcomed more than 60 different families since it re-started in June 2021. The regular attendees are always delighted to be joined by other parents, grandparents and carers from our village and much further afield. The sessions are run by Laura Spencer, Manager of the Maple Tree. and everyone is assured of a sympathetic ear and a chance to chat about the ups and downs of being at home with a small baby.

Because children grow up so quickly, we are constantly welcoming new babies and saying goodbye to the toddlers who go off to nursery when their parents return to work. If you know of anyone local who has recently had a baby, do encourage them to drop in on us on a Thursday morning at 11am. It can be very scary going to a place where you don't think you know anyone but we can assure you that you will receive a genuinely warm welcome. Sessions finish at midday with a story and some singing and the volunteers do all the clearing up so you don't have to!

Sessions run throughout the year, including half-terms and school holidays and older siblings are welcome to come along when they are not in school. The regular volunteers are Julia Stutfield, Jane Walker and Anthea Beresford. For more information contact Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com.



HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Churchwarden and Parochial Church Council changes

Following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 3 May there are a few changes to the PCC. A huge thank you to Lyn Whitaker for her constant and diligent service as Churchwarden for the last 15 years. Lyn is now having a well-deserved step back from these duties for more time for family and dog agility focused Sundays. Lyn hands over to Julia Slingo who has kindly taken on this role along with Andrew Payne. Andrew has been willingly re-elected after a break of just one year. A huge thank you to him for coming back after such a small break! David Slingo is taking on Julia's previous role of Treasurer alongside his current secretary role. A huge thank you also to Annie Payne who is stepping down as Deanery Synod representative which Liz Pugh has kindly taken on. Derek Jewell, Lisa Mynheer and Carol Welch are re-elected to the PCC for another three years.

Coronation weekend

A big thank you to Philippa Rooney and Elizabeth Chicken for the beautiful



flowers which decorated our church throughout the Coronation services and celebrations. Thank you too, to Sara and Jenny for your wonderful Coronation 'Ring for the King' on the Saturday morning. It really made a perfect start to the Coronation Day and made us feel part of the wider, national celebrations.

Thank you, Annie and Andrew, for the champagne and coffee provided for the three Coronation events at St Barnabas over the weekend which helped to make them into a lovely, happy social occasions too.

Coffee and Chat

Coffee and chat will be in St Barnabas church on Saturday 10 June 10am – 12pm. Everyone is welcome to share 10 minutes or an hour or so with neighbours and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Dogs are always welcome so please drop in if you are walking past.

Animal Friendly Church

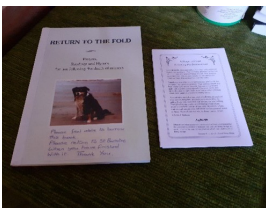


We are very happy that St Barnabas has been awarded Animal Friendly Church status after three years of working towards this. It is an initiative from the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals who award the Certificate to churches who provide sufficient evidence that they practice and promote a compassionate attitude towards all of God's creatures.

Little changes we have made include welcoming dogs to all our services; holding the annual Animal Blessing and Welfare Service (which has been happening for many years already thanks to Lyn Whitaker); making the churchyard more wildlife friendly including making a bug house, positioning bird boxes in the trees and having a bird feeding area; favouring cleaning products which are cruelty free and environmentally friendly; being mindful of animal welfare, such as free range eggs, locally sourced meat and dairy and dairy free/plant-based choice at all catering events; having a Return to the Fold prayer book available in church which anyone is welcome to use or borrow following bereavement of a cat, dog or any other animal or when they may be facing illness, old age and euthanasia; prayer of hope cards also available to take; continuing the donation box for Tiggywinkles in the porch plus contact details on the notice board for if you find an injured wild animal; including regular prayers for animal welfare within the services; a bowl of water kept topped up at the gate for passing dogs; dog biscuits for coffee and chats; sharing animal welfare matters on the facebook group.



These are just a few examples of little changes we have made over the last three years in order to obtain the Animal Friendly Status and we will continue to be mindful of other ways we can practice a compassionate attitude to all God's creatures. It has been a lovely project to work through and thank you to all who have been involved with and supported this.



Carol Welch

Messy Church celebrates St Barnabas Day, 11 June, 3.30- 5pm

All ages are welcome to join us for Messy Church and a Teddy Bears' Picnic on 11 June, which is St Barnabas Day. To celebrate we will be having a picnic in the churchyard with activities including a treasure hunt, as well as Messy Church for those who wish to attend. Just come along with your picnic and maybe a rug (will be in church if raining). We will also provide teas, coffees, squash and cakes.

Village Nights at Studley Wood Golf Club

The Village Nights at Studley Wood Golf Club continue on the last Friday of the month. Ian the chef has suggested a change of format, offering a three course meal with a menu based on a different country's cuisine. Two courses for £21 and three for £24.95. If you are interested in joining us and are not already on the contact list please email Ruth on ruth.david@live.com and I can let you know what June's theme will be.

Otmoor Challenge 1 July 2023 - We need your Support

The Otmoor Challenge Half Marathon will take place on 1 July with runners setting off at 10am and walkers able to get going between 8am and 10am. The committee has completed a full review of the event, and has now received a full licence from England Athletics (Licence Number: 2023-45728). If you wish to sign up for the run, please visit the website. As in previous years there will also be an opportunity for runners to purchase tickets on the day and no advance ticket purchasing is required for any walkers. Post-race cake and refreshments will be available at the Millennium Hall courtesy of the WI; however, we would also welcome any cake donations if you are able to contribute.

In order to ensure this event is successful, we are now prioritising our efforts to find more volunteers. We have leaned heavily on the same amazing group of volunteers for a number of years now, but to sustain this run, we need more people from the village and surrounding areas who are willing to help out on the day. If you are available to help with delegated activities (e.g., water station or course marshal), please reach out to us personally or email us at runners@otmoorchallenge.co.uk. With your help we look forward to making this event a success for many years to come.

Nick Tribble, Chairman, Otmoor Challenge Association

Dr. Michael Kenworthy-Browne

22nd March 1936 - 9th February 2023



Michael was born in Hertfordshire in March 1936, the youngest of five children. His parents owned a farm and a prep-school called Welbury where he and his brothers and sister were pupils. Michael and his brothers went on to Ampleforth College, all four going on to various colleges in Oxford. His sister became a nun and read Classics.

Michael's Catholicism, and his annual pilgrimage to work in Lourdes, was the bedrock of his being. After leaving school, Michael joined Ampleforth Abbey as a postulant. It was an enlightening experience but, after 9 months, he realised he was not cut out for monastic life.

Michael was called up for National Service in 1955 and served as a commissioned officer with the Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was on active service in Cyprus for two years during the Eoka Campaign. In July 1976 he was astonished to see a photograph, taken of his platoon during his time in Cyprus, on the BBC News. The news item concerned the conviction and sentencing of Donald Nielson, known as the Black Panther, who had committed a series of robberies, killing various people in the process and who went on to kill Lesley Whittle. Donald Nielsen had served under Michael, as his Lance-Corporal, in his given surname name of Donald Nappey subsequently changing his surname to Nielson.

On his return to England Michael went to Oriel College to study medicine. He trained for five years as a general and cardiac physician at the Old Radcliffe before going into a busy General Practice in Oxford City. He looked after several colleges, was a GP trainer and worked for Oxfam and Blackwells. He retired from the NHS in 2001 and worked privately at the Acland Hospital and later at the Manor Hospital. He was a Fellow of both the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Physicians.

Wine tasting for Oriel College and the various clubs to which he belonged were very dear to him.

One of his hidden talents, which only came to the fore on celebratory

occasions, was his dance technique. The world will not see a dancer so creative and vigorous in his movements again! He had absolutely no sense of rhythm and bobbed up when everyone else went down! Along with a certain amount of collateral damage, he seemed somewhat surprised when his partner was reluctant to take to the floor again!

He was a kind and gentle man who cared deeply for his patients and for his family.

I would like to thank so many of you for attending Michael's Requiem Mass and for the many wonderful letters of condolence. It has meant a great deal to me.

Elizabeth Kenworthy-Browne

Parish Council News

The Parish Council would like to remind everyone that the speed limit through the Village is now 20mph. There are still speed signs for wheelie bins in the porch of the church

The PC continues to meet on a monthly basis, but we rarely have any public attendance. We would love to meet villagers face to face, please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to attend a meeting. hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Millennium Village Hall

Thanks to Freddie and others for the Fitness Fundraiser on 22 April, and a welcome addition to the playground fund.

The Hall Committee will hold the **Annual General Meeting at 8pm on 1 June** in the hall; villagers are very welcome and refreshments will be provided. This is an opportunity to hear about past activity and future plans, and to volunteer for a term on the Committee – contact me at s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com.

Just a reminder of Hall contact details:

For bookings: hcshallbookings@gmail.com.

And for treasurer: treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com.

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Stanton St John WI

We are looking forward to hearing about “Six Warrior Women” by an excellent speaker, Stephen Barker. The topic is close to the hearts of most WI members but if hearing about intrepid women from our past appeals to non-members, you are most welcome to join us on Tuesday 13 June, at 7.30pm in the Stanton St John Village Hall.

Further contact details from: stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.



College House Open Garden 2023 Every Friday afternoon in June: 3 - 7pm

Dogs on leads please (free range hens at large), Children under supervision - Ha Ha !

Feel free to bring your own picnic / wine / snacks - and your friends.

Parking at the Village Hall. Enter via the churchyard gate. Everyone welcome
Donations appreciated to Stanton St John Church Restoration Fund - at the house.

Friday 7th July Special Fundraising Event 4 - 7pm
Strawberries and Cream, + Champagne +Jazz
Flowers in the Church

Otherwise by appointment: Nicola Mallows 07817122214

Midsummer Music in Stanton Church, Friday 30 June, 7.30pm
Oxybaroxy (Oxfordshire Youth Baroque Strings) will present a programme of Baroque concertos by Bach, Albinoni, Grigori, Muffat and more. Soloists from Oxfordshire County Music Service will be performing, and the concert will feature viols.

Admission will be free. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Stanton church and the Oxfordshire Fund for Music. Refreshments will be available before the concert. Nikki Gresswell has also kindly invited concert goers to picnic in the gardens of College House.

This will be a fantastic concert! Please support it!

Monthly Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall

Come for tea, coffee and cake on **7 June** and **12 July, 10.30am-12pm**. Everyone is welcome! For further details, please contact Sue Baker 351449 /Sarah Coyne 358876

Stanton Parish Council

Photos of the village for our website

We are in the process of updating the Parish Council website at <https://stantonstjohn.parish-council.com/>. The basics are now in place and it will be further developed over the summer as time permits. Some new photos would be very welcome - if you have any that you would like to share, showing views of our lovely village and its beautiful surroundings, please do send to stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com. Other ideas and suggestions very welcome too!

Traffic measures

By the time this magazine is published we should at last have a decision from Oxfordshire County Council on the proposed 20 mph area for our village. Following the formal consultation process in March, this is scheduled for discussion at the late May meeting of OCC's committee on Highway Management.

Next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 19 June at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The agenda will be published a week beforehand as usual, by email and on the noticeboard by the village shop.

Film Night Saturday 10 June 7.45pm Stanton St John Village Hall

As the last film of the season, the Stanton St John Film Club presents:



The Quiet Girl

Rural Ireland 1981. A quiet, neglected girl is sent away from her dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one. (Mostly spoken in Irish, subtitled in English)

Doors will be open at 7:00 pm, with a film start at 7:45 pm. Before and after the film, delicious cakes and drinks are available whilst the bar will serve wines and an Irish Maid cocktail.

Since only 60 seats are available in the Village Hall, please reserve your seats asap for screening via Sue Baker (susanjbaker24@googlemail.com) or in the Village Shop.

Tickets are £5 (cash only) will be sold at the door. Any profits raised will be used to enhance the Village Hall for future screenings.

The Coronation Celebration

“A picture speaks a thousand words” So we will let the photos below remind us what a fun afternoon we had. Just a few thank yous -

Thank you to everyone who came along, everyone who helped in the run up and the clear up afterwards, to the sun for making it all the better- and finally to the Parish Council for their support.

If anyone has an idea for an event next year then do set the ball rolling by emailing SSJVillageEvents@gmail.com.



The scene was set and made all the better by the sunshine



The hog roasted and many thanks to Peter for coming to carve for us



Beautiful Crown making!



Memories of the Queens Coronation were displayed by the Morris family



Gathered in anticipation of the Dog Show



Dog Show in action wonderfully judged by Olive & Emily

A Church of England Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen



Use money released from your home however you like
Better quality of life, clear existing debt, gift to loved ones...

Contact Vanessa
Equity Release Specialist:
07496 823346 | vanessa@fmifa.com
www.fmequityrelease.co.uk



Member of the Equity Release Council. Financial Management is a trading title of Philip Harper LLP, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



RECTORY FARM *Est 1954*



STRAWBERRY PYO NOW OPEN!

2 for 1 Breakfasts & Lunches every Wednesday

FARM SHOP | CAFÉ | GELATO | MILK VENDING MACHINE | ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

RECTORY FARM, OXFORD, OX33 1HF

RECTORYFARMPYO.CO.UK

Local family business offering competitive septic tank and sewage treatment plant servicing, emptying, supply and installation



The KEE Services we offer:

- Septic tank & sewage treatment plant maintenance and emptying
- Inspection visits for peace of mind
- Routine maintenance & repairs
- Pumping Stations
- All sewage treatment plant refurbishments
- Property sale surveys

KEE Services

Use '4Parishes' as code for 10% off your first order

01296 634500 sales@keeservices.com
www.keeservices.com



- Scarification
- Hollow Tining
- Lawn Aeration
- Over Seeding

- Top Dressing
- Weed Removal
- Moss Control
- Professional Service

NO CONTRACT

Contact Steve

01865 331501 07894 983801

Email cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com

QUALITY KITCHENS NOT COSTLY SHOWROOMS

LIQUID SPACE DESIGN LTD

We are based in Horton-cum-Studley

VERY HIGH QUALITY KITCHENS

Over 900 kitchens installed in the last 10 years

Over 30 years experience in kitchen industry

Please view our work at

www.liquidspacedesign.co.uk

Tel: 07786 938640 enquiries@liquidspacedesign.co.uk

PIANO & MUSIC THEORY TUITION

Music graduate of Oxford University with 10+ years teaching experience at all ages and abilities. Beginners to advanced pupils welcome

- First lesson half price with no obligation
- Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Musicians
- Enhanced DBS available for inspection upon request
- Fee: £20 per half hour. Based in Littlemore



Robin Hagues MA(Oxon) T: 01865-770894 E: robin@robinhagues.co.uk

"Let's Write a Will that Really Works..."

By putting a great Will in place it's possible to protect your property and money from future:



- **Inheritance Tax Bills**
- **Care Home Costs**
- **Legal Claims**

Video meetings can be arranged, or I can take instructions by phone



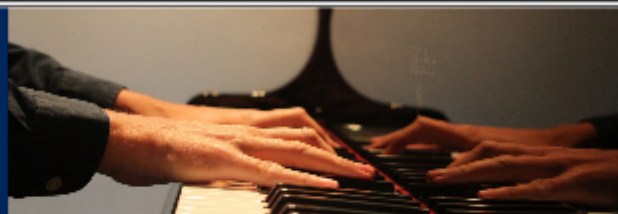
Sam Francis, AffSWW

assuredwillsoxford.co.uk

**01865 600267
07809 213874**

**OXFORD
PIANO
SCHOOL**

CREATIVE TEACHING
INSPIRED LEARNING



WWW.OXFORDPIANOSCHOOL.CO.UK

- Piano lessons for all ages and abilities
- Experienced teacher and former school Head of Music
- Preparation for ABRSM piano and theory grades offered
- Call or email today for a free trial lesson!

E: info@oxfordpianoschool.co.uk
T: 07810 829886

Wheatley Road, Forest Hill

Forest Hill Massage & Beauty

Relaxation or Deep Tissue Massage.

Great for runners/golfers/tendonitis etc.

£25 for 30 mins or £40 for 1hr

Pedicure including hard skin & cuticle removal, foot soak, file & polish £25

Semi permanent eyebrows & eyeliner £130 per session

Email: mariaslk@hotmail.com

Tel: 07786 364505



WHEATLEY
FOOT & BODY CLINIC

Unit 15 Wheatley Business Centre,
Old London Road, Wheatley, OX33 1XW
E: Enquiries@wheatleyfootbodyclinic.com
W: www.wheatleyfootbodyclinic.com

Gemma Johnson BSc MCPod HCPC
Podiatrist / Chiropodist T:07969321909

William Johnson-Coleman BSc MISRM MSMA
Soft Tissue Therapist T: 07539257542

JARROTT WATCHES

Watch repair and restoration in the Oxfordshire area.

We are pleased to offer a range of services, including:

- Battery Replacements
- Watch Restoration
- Strap & Bracelet Repairs & Changes
- Cleaning & Polishing
- Servicing & Maintenance
- Custom Watch Builds
- Watch Sourcing
- Second Hand Watch Sales

Contact us now to discuss your requirements and get a free quotation!

WWW.JARROTTWATCH 07983 015 328 HELLO@JARROTTWATCH



KLB Hair Creations

Mobile Hair Stylist

Call for an appointment

07538 389671

klbhaircreations@outlook.com

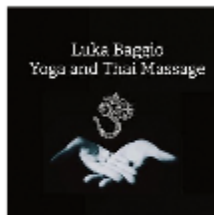
PPE will be worn for your safety and mine

Yoga with Luka!

Stanton St John Village Hall

Thursday 6.15pm-7.15pm

All ages, sizes and abilities welcome! Bring a mat, a block (if you wish) and a smile



Thai Massage

Middle Road, Stanton St John

Full Body Thai Massage,
Thai Foot Massage or
Pregnancy Massage

60mins, 75mins, 90 mins
or 2 hours

Email: luka@thaimassageoxford.co.uk

Mobile: 07969 981924

Website: www.thaimassageoxford.co.uk

ACHEY BACK? CREAKY JOINTS? TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME?

Come and get “ironed out” at PILATES with PAULINE a fully qualified and experienced instructor.

Safe, gentle exercise to help re-align the body, improve posture and tone muscles.

Monday 10.30 - 11.30am

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30am, 7 - 7.55pm, 8.05 - 9pm

Small groups so booking essential!

For more information or to make a booking please contact Pauline on 07710 588367 pauline@plcfitness.co.uk



Sonite

Services include:

- Domestic & Commercial
- Maintenance & fault finding
- LED & Garden lighting
- Fuse board upgrades
- Testing
- EICR & PAT testing (incl. landlord certificates)
- Rewires

NEC EIC Approved Electrical Contractor
Local, family run business
Over 30 years' experience

 sdheasman@yahoo.co.uk

 07734 477949



Cowley Road MOTs



Oxford's only dedicated MOT Station

MOT tests while you wait or while you're at work

379 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 2BS

Tel: 01865 714714 Email: cowleyroadmotsltd@gmail.com

Website: www.cowleyroadmots.co.uk/

Airport transfers

Door to door

Modern Executive Cars

Fully licenced local drivers

Professional and reliable

Free in car Wi-Fi

Pre-bookings only



Email: bookings@ccbcars.com

Online: www.ccbcars.com

01865 876699

07585 699908

Need an electrician?

Family run business based in Brill

SANDERS

Electrical Solutions

Contact us today for a free,
no obligation quotation

☎ **07713 501 310**

office@sanders-electrical.co.uk



- ✓ Small jobs welcome
- ✓ Energy saving LED downlights
- ✓ Additional lighting and sockets
- ✓ Garden lighting and power
- ✓ Fault finding & testing
- ✓ Fuse-board upgrades
- ✓ Building regulations - Part P approved contractor
- ✓ Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR)
- ✓ EV charging points

For all your electrical needs



HPG SOLUTIONS LTD

Heating Plumbing Gas

Building Services

Email: office@hpgsolutions.co.uk



www.hpgsolutions.co.uk

07876 10 50 10

Oxford

Steve Washington

Plumbing, Heating, Leadwork Specialist

Free Estimates Given



Home: 01865 873577

Mobile: 07759 781794

Email: washingtonsltd@gmail.com

MSM Electrical

- Full Rewires
- Extensions
- Extra Sockets & Lights
- Garden Lighting & Power
- Electrical Vehicle Charging Points
- Small Jobs Welcome



REGISTERED PART P
LANDLORDS CERTIFICATES

Contact Martin Shaw: 07860 795 605 / 01865 872681
msmelectrical61@gmail.com

PURE WATER CLEANING

We clean window glass, window frames, facias,
Conservatory roofs, gutters and downpipes,
Whatever you need cleaning.

- Smear-free glass, no job too small
- Easy access up to 40 feet/12 metres
 - Visits by appointment
 - Fully trained and insured

Call Chris Black on 07857 985100

Daniel, your local electrician

I am NAPIT-registered and live locally in Horton-cum-Studley
I have 25+ years experience

All small electrical works, re-wires, garden lighting/power and testing undertaken

Call or email for further information:

Email: danieldouglas2602@gmail.com

Telephone: 07305 528710





Minibuild, specialising In refurbishment works in Oxford and the surrounding villages

Visit our website www.minibuild.org.uk or simply send an email or call

Email: minibuildoxford@gmail.com

Phone: 07717 128949

For references and more information visit Checkatrade.com then click on 'look up member by name' (Minibuild)

Windmill Windows Est 1999

A local family run business supplying and installing a large range of products in all materials

*Windows, Doors, Bi-folds & Patio Sliders,
Conservatories, Facia/Soffit & Guttering, Glazing*

Please call us or visit our website for information. All quotations are free of charge or obligation.

Unit 1, Walnut Farm, 68 Worminghall Road, Oakley, Bucks HP18 9QY
01844 237070 **www.windmillwindows.com**

OWEN HANDYMAN SERVICES

All your jobs taken care of - one phone call - very good rates
Been in the business for 44 years - no job too big or too small
Work guaranteed, references on request

Telephone: 01865 608123 Mobile: 07780 676521

Email: owenbennett@hotmail.co.uk





الشامي
مطعم لبناني

AL SHAMI
LEBANESE RESTAURANT

25 Walton Crescent, Oxford Telephone 310066

OPEN MIDDAY TO MIDNIGHT

For those who appreciate good food

www.al-shami.co.uk

We cater for:

- *Special Occasions
- *Cocktail & Dinner Parties
- *Take aways of fine quality



College House, Stanton St John
Open Garden 2023
Friday afternoons in June
3 - 7pm

See page 34
for more information